

the Nation in congratulating him as he finishes his term as chairman of the Big I.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA-DAKOTAS KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Convention.

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to serving the children of the world. With a motto of "One Child and one Community at a time," Kiwanis members dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours and invest more than \$107 million in projects that strengthen communities and serve children. These projects include helping shelter the homeless, feeding the hungry, mentoring the disadvantaged, caring for the sick, developing the youth as leaders, building playgrounds, raising funds for pediatric research, and much more.

Today the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis has over 4,000 members. With a club slogan of "Serving the children of the World," the chapter supports a range of programs, including Kiwanis Kids—elementary students—Builder's Club—middle school students—Key Club—high school students—and Circle K—college students. In addition, the chapter supports Aktion clubs for adults with disabilities. These programs allow our youth and adults to build character, leadership skills and learn more about themselves and their communities.

I congratulate the Kiwanis International Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International on their 100th convention and thank them for their leadership and dedication to children and to their communities. May they continue to thrive for the 100 years to come.●

#### REMEMBERING ELIJAH "YOCKIE" DELEE

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of a great South Carolinian and American veteran, Mr. Elijah "Yockie" DeLee, who departed this life on July 20, 2017.

Elijah was a lifelong resident of Dorchester County, SC, where he worked tirelessly as a beloved deacon at Surprise Baptist Church. He was drafted into the Vietnam war shortly after graduating high school and showed perseverance until he was honorably discharged. He possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and followed his passion for drag racing to help open South Carolina's first minority-owned dragway: Dorchester Dragway. He continued his business endeavors with the opening of DeLee One Trucking Company, still a staple in Dorchester today. In success, Elijah always exemplified respect, humility, and generosity.

For many in Dorchester, he will be remembered for his relentless spirit, tenacity for life, and heart for people. He never met a stranger and was always eager to lend a helping hand. Yockie loved and adored his family, and next to God and his faith, they were always his top priority in life. He was a true provider, mediator, demonstrator, and imitator of Godly character. He will surely be missed among family, friends, and the community of Dorchester as a great American and South Carolinian.●

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW LIGHT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor New Light Beulah Baptist Church in Hopkins, SC, for their 150th anniversary, which will be celebrated on August 11 to 13, 2017.

New Light Beulah Baptist Church was established in 1867 when 665 African-American members of Beulah Baptist Church chose to separate from the White members and began independent rule. Despite the sanctuary burning to the ground in 1916, the church thrived and expanded. Since then, several other churches have been formed out of New Light Beulah Baptist. In 2015, the members accepted Dr. Malcolm Taylor as their pastor, and over 360 members call New Light Beulah their place of worship today.

In August 2017, New Light Beulah Baptist Church will be the first African-American church in the lower Richland community to be registered in the National Register of Historic Places. The church has remained committed to its mission, and I encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the rich history of the church and its contribution to the Palmetto State. I acknowledge and celebrate the church's 150 years of independence as a congregation faithfully serving their community.●

#### REMEMBERING HORACE MERRILL

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Horace Sellers Merrill of Micaville, AL, who passed away on February 17, 2017. He will be remembered as a dedicated public servant who worked faithfully for the citizens of Alabama. He was committed to bettering his community and State through his public service and involvement in the community.

Mr. Merrill began a career with the Dixie Mines Mica Mining Company in the late 1950s before entering Alabama politics. In 1964, he was elected circuit clerk of Cleburne County, a position he held for 12 years. Following his term as circuit clerk, Mr. Merrill was elected probate judge and chairman of the Cleburne County Commission, where he served for 6 years.

Mr. Merrill will be remembered for his leadership in completing the Alabama welcome center and rest area on

Interstate 20, as well as his efforts to utilize the Dyne Creek watershed to service the citizens of Cleburne County with a countywide water system.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Merrill was a very active member of his community. He served as president of the Lions Club, the Jaycees, and the local Athletics Boosters Club. In his earlier years, Mr. Merrill was an accomplished athlete. He lettered in both baseball and football and then attended Southern Union Junior College on an athletic scholarship. He later served as the announcer for Little League and junior high football games in Cleburne County and helped organize the first youth baseball program in Heflin.

Additionally, Mr. Merrill was a longtime member in the Cleburne Baptist Association, serving as an officer and pastor of several churches. A member of Heflin Baptist Church for more than 50 years, Mr. Merrill served as a deacon, a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, church training director, and sanctuary choir member.

Horace's many accomplishments and contributions to the State of Alabama will long be remembered. He touched the lives of many over the years, and he will be greatly missed.

I offer my deepest condolences to Horace's wife, Mary, and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate his life and mourn this great loss.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST MONTANA CHAPTER OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Vietnam Veterans of America and the work Mr. John Burgess and the local Flathead Valley chapter has done on behalf of his fellow veterans of the Vietnam war.

During that war, more than 2.5 million Americans fought bravely in service to their country. While more than 58,000 of those men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice, many more endured and are still here with us today. However, it has not been an easy road for these veterans. For far too long, veterans of the Vietnam war have received neither the recognition nor the benefits that they truly deserved.

As ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, it has been my honor to fight for legislation that rectifies this oversight like the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that would allow veterans who served in the waters offshore during the Vietnam war to also be eligible for service-connected disability benefits as a result of agent orange exposure. I have also proudly sponsored the Toxic Exposure Research Act which increases research into the health conditions of descendants of veterans who were exposed to toxins during their military service, particularly those exposed to the herbicide agent orange during the Vietnam war.

Honoring these veterans takes more than just legislation; it takes dedicated